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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Latvia
SUBJECT Description of Hospitals and University
in Riga
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

University of Latvia, Riga

1. The various departments or schools in the university were called, "faculties". The Latvian University was composed of the following faculties:
- a. Medical (six year course), with subdivision for dentistry (five year course).
 - b. Natural Sciences.
 - c. Mathematics and Physics.
 - d. Law and Economics (the latter a subdivision of law).
 - e. Chemistry.
 - f. Pharmacy.
 - g. Philosophy and Philology.
 - h. Architecture.
 - i. Engineering and Mechanics (with several subdivisions).
 - j. Theology (Lutheran, Catholic and Orthodox).
 - k. Veterinary Medicine.

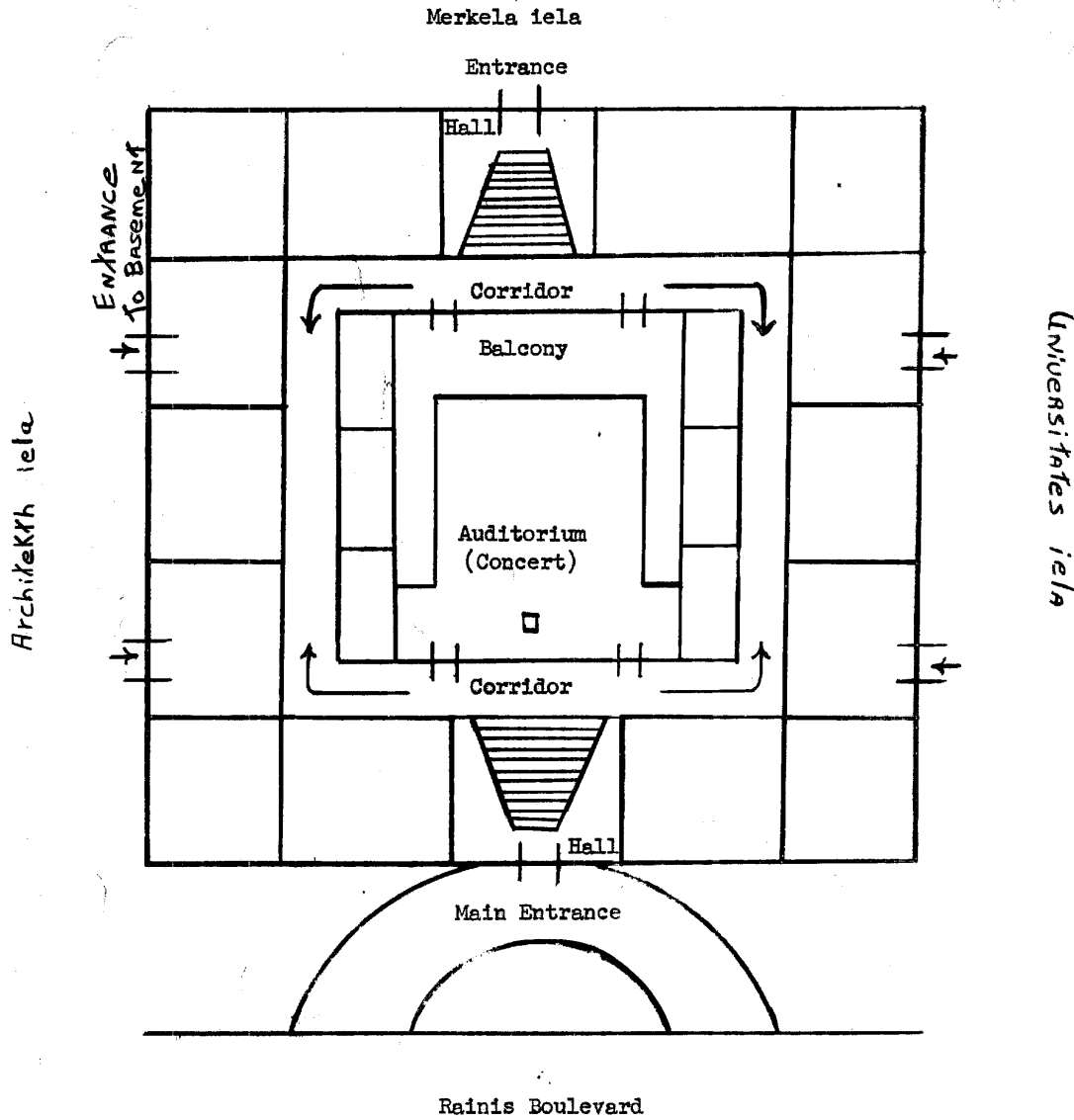
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2. The main university building was located at 17 Rainis Boulevard in Riga. It was a large square building with various institutes for theoretical sciences, laboratories for chemistry (in the basement) an auditorium seating two thousand persons, a hall for ceremonies (Aula) and office rooms. (See diagram of the main university building below.)



CONFIDENTIAL/SECURITY INFORMATION

- 3 -

3. The Office of the Medical Faculty was located in a building known as the "Anatomy and Physiology Building" on Kronvald Boulevard. The dean of the medical faculty for a number of years was a prominent doctor who is now professor of anatomy in an eastern university. Other medical institutes comprising part of the Latvian University were located as follows:

a. Serum Institute, located a short distance northwest of Riga in what was known as the Kleist Estate (Kleistu Muiza). The founder of this institute was a specialist in insulin preparation who is now in the US.

b. Microbiology Institute, located in the Second Municipal Hospital of Riga on the southwest edge of the city at the junction of Ventspils iela and Liepaja iela.

c. Institute for Nutrition was a small institution located in a building on Baznīcas iela.

d. Although there was no special institute for experimental medicine, research of that kind was done in the municipal hospitals.

4. Most of the clinical teaching in the university medical school was done at the various hospitals as follows:

a. Second Municipal Hospital, Ventspils iela. By special arrangement with the City of Riga the university was granted the privilege of teaching classes at this hospital as follows:

50X1 (1) Surgery, under the direction of Professor Stradins who remained in Riga [redacted] He was regarded as a good surgeon whose wife was a Russian. [redacted]

50X1

50X1 (2) Internal Medicine, under the direction of Professor Mikelsons who was a drug addict who also remained in Riga.

(3) Eye Diseases, formerly under the direction of an able man who is now in the US.

(4) Pathology and Rabies, formerly also under the direction of an able doctor now practicing in the US.

(5) Ear Nose and Throat Diseases, also under the direction of a man who is now in the US.

b. University Children's Hospital, a part of the Municipal Children's Hospital, located on the highway to Jelgava in the suburb of Tornakalns south of the city. Two of the former heads of this hospital are now in the US. A Doctor Neimanis, considered one of the best specialists in children's diseases, remained in Riga. Up to 1944 he did not evince any sympathy for Communism but it is difficult to say what his present status may be. He also owned a private hospital for children's diseases in Riga.

c. First Municipal Hospital No 17, Aizsargu iela.

(1) Surgery, former head of department now in US.

(2) Obstetrics and Gynecology, former head of department now in US.

50X1 (3) Skin and Venereal Diseases, head of department was an elderly man who [redacted] died after 1944. An assistant professor was deported by the Communists in 1941.

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CONFIDENTIAL/SECURITY INFORMATION

- 4 -

(4) Nervous Diseases, headed by an Assistant Professor Ianis Vilde, who was a good neurologist [redacted]

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d. Red Cross Hospital No 3, Eglu iela. Courses in surgery were given at this hospital under a professor who is now in the US. The medical director of the hospital was an able surgeon by the name of Neiberger who [redacted] is still in Riga.

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e. Municipal Mental Hospital, 18-22 Duntas iela (18 acres of land). A portion of this hospital was allocated for university work. [redacted]

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50X1 [redacted] A young assistant on the staff, Doctor Hugo Krumins, turned out to be a member of the Communist Party although none of us knew it before the Communist occupation in 1940.

f. Institute for Forensic Medicine was in the municipal morgue on Maskavas iela, under Professor Veidemans who died in 1944. His assistant is now in the US.

Other Public and Private Hospitals in Riga

5. State Mental Hospital, "Aleksandra Augstumi", located in Sarkandaugava, a suburb north of Riga.
6. The Municipal Hospital for Tuberculosis, located in Bikernieki on the highway to Leningrad. Dr Veinberg, a woman, was the director in 1944.
7. The Military Hospital on Hospitalu iela, across the railway from the Municipal Mental Hospital.
8. The German Hospital No 5, Miera iela.
- 50X1 9. The Jewish Hospital on Maskavas iela, No 119 [redacted]
10. The Municipal Hospital for Cancer Patients on Talsu iela.
11. There were also at least four hospitals privately owned by prominent doctors in Riga, all of whom left Latvia prior to 1945.
12. All more or less prominent Latvian doctors in Riga left the country prior to 1945. There are perhaps 350 of them in the US at this time and perhaps as many dentists. Among other scientists who remained in Riga [redacted] are Professor Endzelins, a philologist, and Professor Kirchensteins, a microbiologist. The former, an old man by now, was reported by the Latvian newspapers to have been reprimanded by Moscow and directed to adhere to the Moscow Party line even in teaching linguistics. The latter, formerly a member of the Veterinary Science Faculty, was later one of the Communist prime ministers. He had always been regarded by the medical profession in Riga as a comical figure of extremely dubious scientific abilities.

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